
Academy for Venue Safety & Security
International Association of Venue Managers, Inc.

Public Assembly Venue And Event Policies

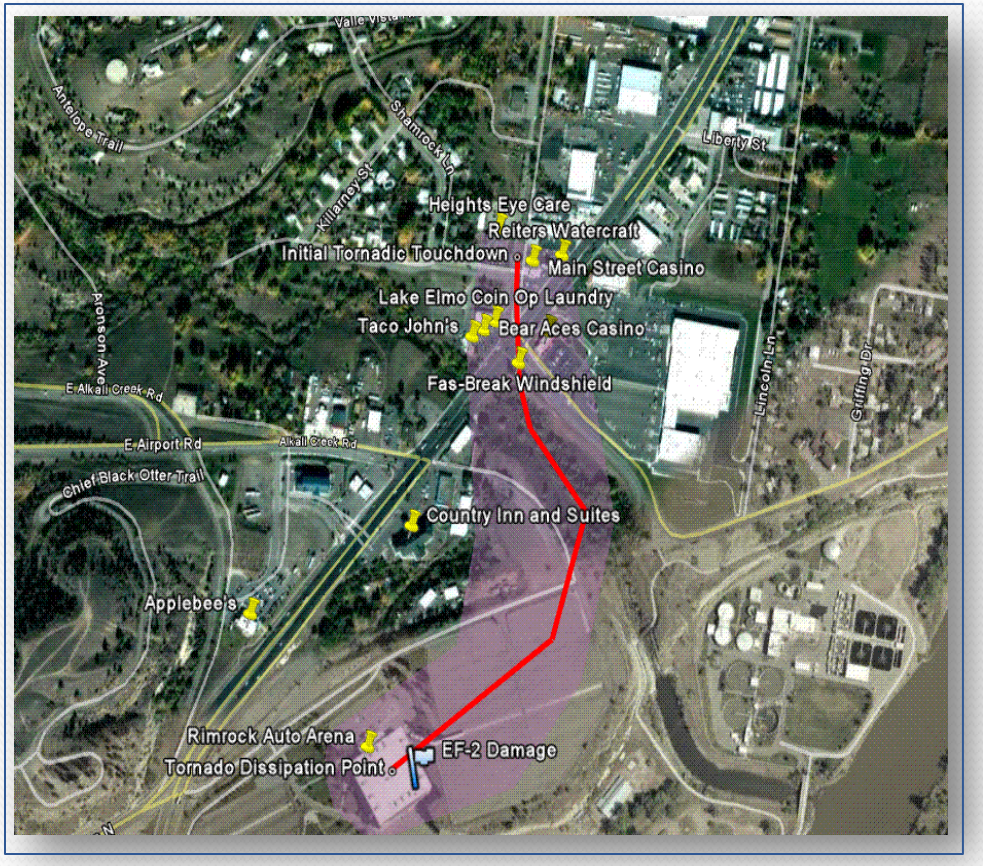
Bob C. Mayer, CFE

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

Billings Tornado – June 20, 2010

Rimrock Auto Arena in Billings, Montana.

EF-2 struck the arena and then dissipated.



Billings Tornado – June 20, 2010

Rimrock Auto Arena was badly damaged

$55 Million in damages

Took 10 months to get back to full operation

Billings Tornado – June 20, 2010

Roof Damage was extensive

Tornado struck at 4:00pm…. on Father's Day

According to NWS Office in Billings, the storm formed right over Billings.

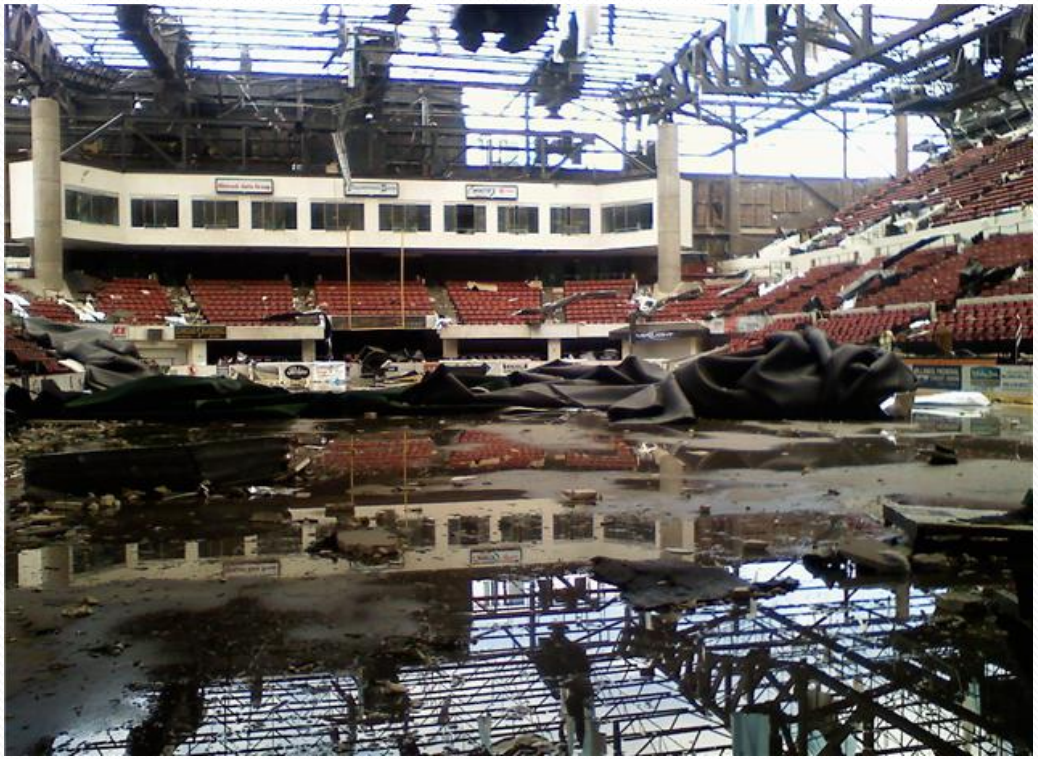
Billings Tornado – June 20, 2010

The Rimrock Auto Arena hosted an Arena Football Game the previous evening

Image shows goal posts at the far end with the turf piled up on the arena floor

The sky can be seen above the arena floor.

Since the tornado struck the next day when there were no events, no injuries occurred.

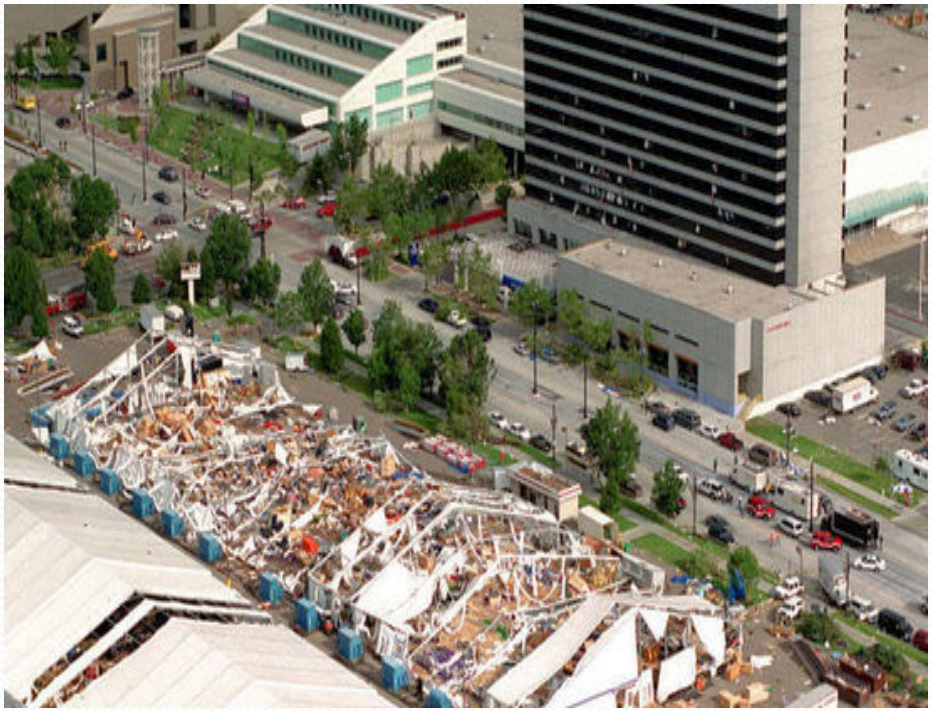


Salt Lake City, UT
August 11, 1999

On August 11, 1999, an F2 tornado touched down in the metropolitan area of Salt Lake City. The tornado lasted ten minutes and killed one person, injured more than 80 people, and caused more than $170 million in damages. It was the most destructive tornado in Utah's history, and awakened the entire state's population to the fact that the Beehive State does experience tornadoes.

Salt Lake City, UT
August 11, 1999

An Outdoor Retailers Association show was going on at the Salt Palace Convention Center at the time where tents were set up for the show were flattened. Part of the roof was ripped off of the Delta Center arena, which is close to the Salt Palace Convention Center. They did not have a plan in effect at the time…but they do now!



Georgia Tech vs. Virginia Tech
August 27, 2000

Game was postponed …but probably should have done so sooner if lightning was this close.

"When the storm hit Sunday night, players, officials and photographers dashed off the field and headed for shelter. The Yellow Jackets stood under a tent and makeshift garage, the Hokies in a small tunnel. Both teams eventually ran across the field to the tunnel leading to the locker rooms." (AP Football Writer)

Oklahoma State University vs. University of Tulsa September 27, 2011

University of Tulsa – Great case study in planning and preparedness

Storm predicted a week in advance

University Management met with affected folks to make a plan

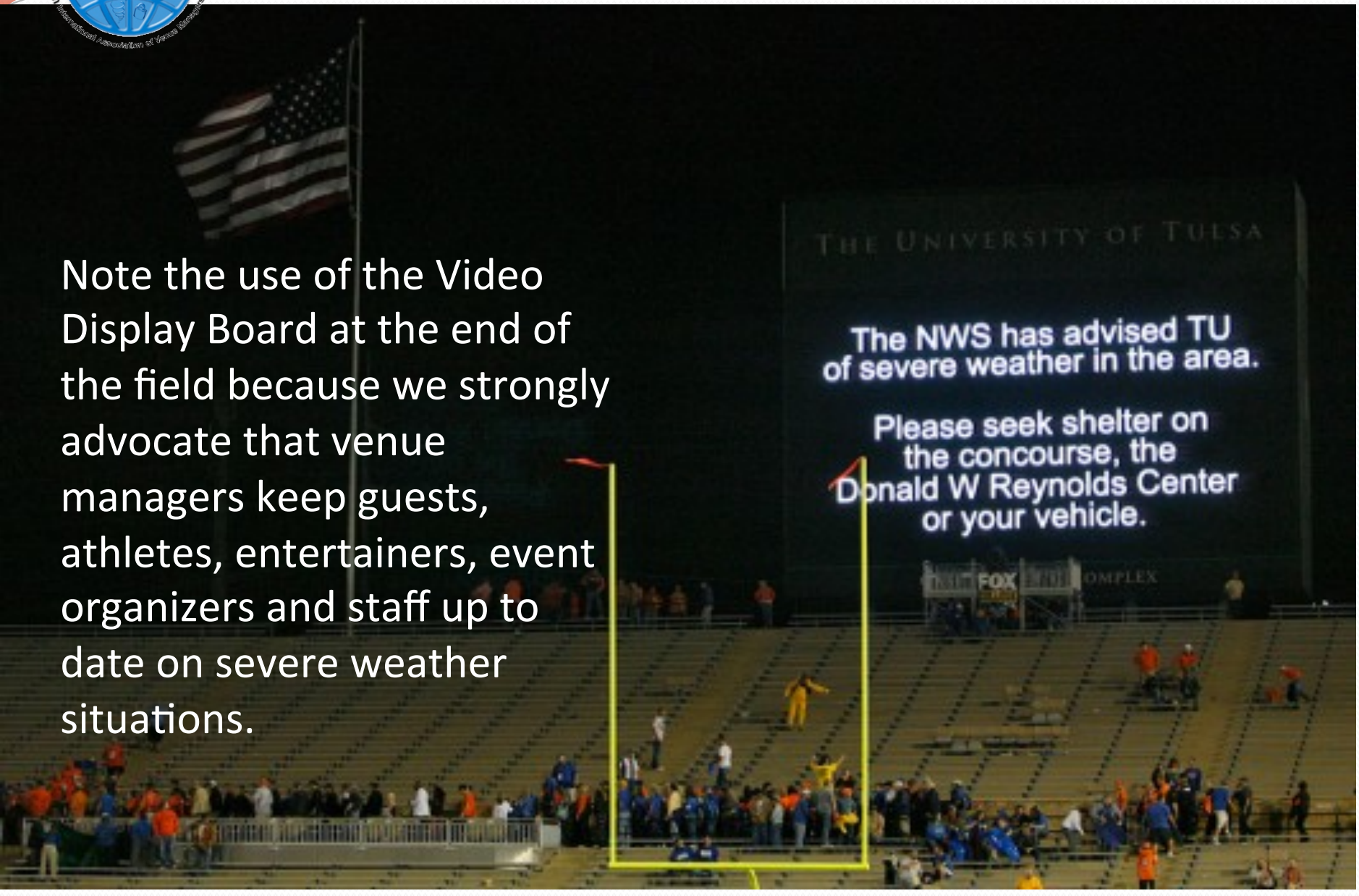
When storm started moving in, spectators were asked to move to the Reynolds Arena which is adjacent to the stadium. (TV on Jumbotron, Concession stands open, etc.)

Teams went to their respective locker rooms

Photo by Nate Billings of The Oklahoman

OSU vs. University of Tulsa
September 27, 2011

Note the use of the Video Display Board at the end of the field because we strongly advocate that venue managers keep guests, athletes, entertainers, event organizers and staff up to date on severe weather situations.



OSU vs. University of Tulsa
September 27, 2011

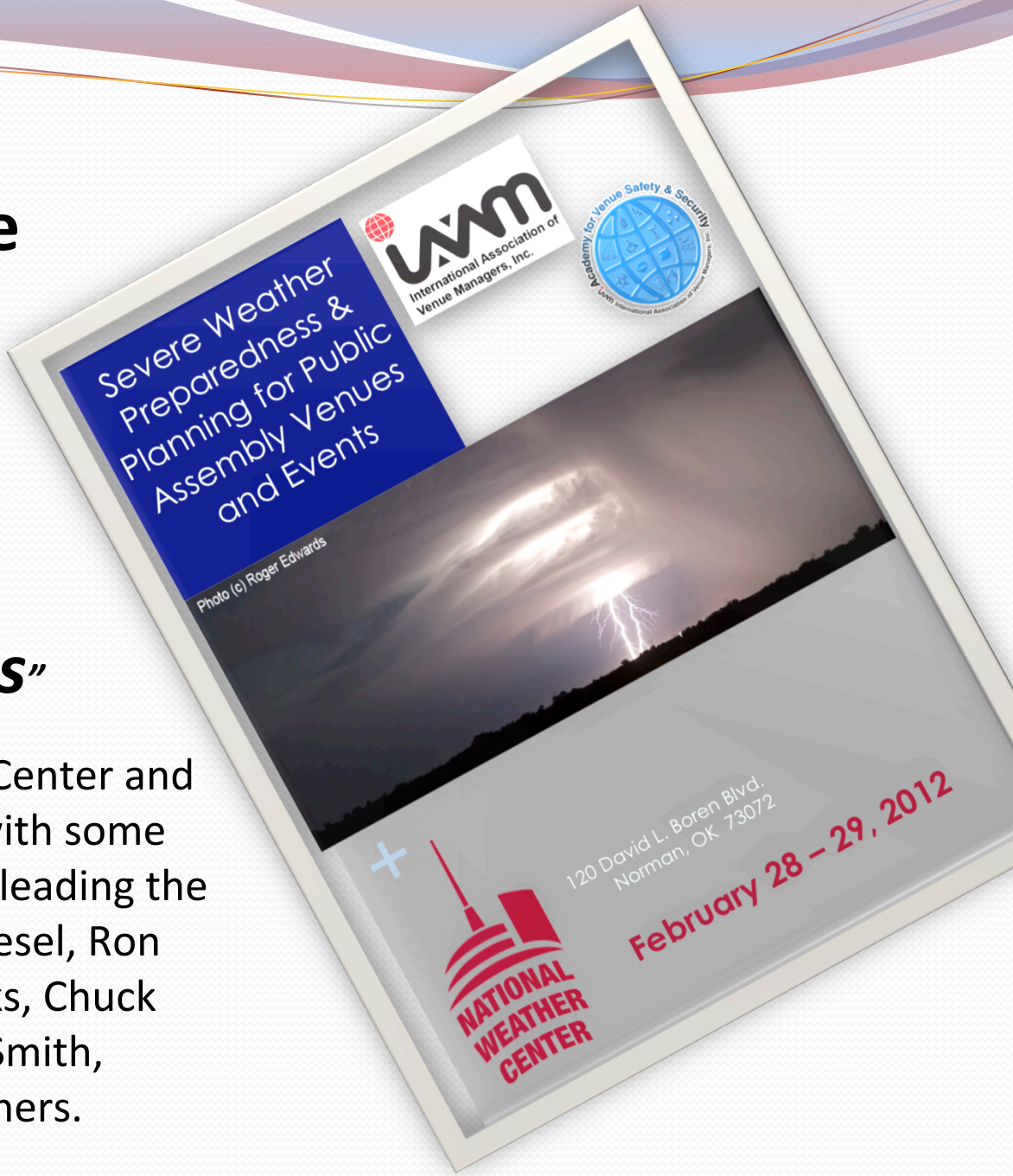
Game started after midnight and didn't end until 3:45 on Sunday morning.

IAVM/AVSS Severe Weather Planning Guide

- Building Relationships
- Organizing a Chain of Command
- Setting up a Command Center
- Monitoring Severe Weather
- Planning
- Communicating
- Responding to a warning
- Conducting a briefing
- Lighting Threats

Specialized Course

"Severe Weather Preparedness for Public Assembly Venues and Events"



Held at the National Weather Center and with nearly 50 in attendance with some of the top people in their field leading the discussion, including Kevin Kloesel, Ron Holle, Jim LaDue, Harold Brooks, Chuck Doswell, Roger Edwards, Rick Smith, Andy Bailey, Mike Eilts, and others.

Initial Planning Steps

- Build decision-making triggers into the plan
  - Assessment of Severe Weather Threat
  - What do you do and when
  - Evacuate or Shelter-in-place
  - Event cancellation

LIKE EVERY SEVERE WEATHER EVENT….EACH PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENT IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE LAST WEEK. THERE IS NO "ONE SIZE FITS ALL" PLAN THAT IS PERFECT IN EVERY INSTANCE.

EXAMPLE

Severe Weather Decision Trigger Chart

TRIGGER	ACTION	INDOOR or OUTDOOR VENUE
Prediction of Severe Convective Storms *(one – five days in advance of the event)*	Communicate with all affected event personnel and outline action plan for the time prior to, during, and after the event	Both
Prediction of Severe Storms *(day of the event)*	Review action plan with all affected event personnel Note: For outdoor events, operations personnel must check all operational elements related to the production	Both
Issuance of any type of severe storm WATCH	1. Alert all affected event personnel and communicate with all personnel, performers, athletes, and technicians 2. Communicate with all guests that weather conditions are being monitored 3. Prepare for evacuation as recommended for different severe weather conditions	Both
Winds reach 40 MPH, as monitored at the venue or stage	Clear all performers, technicians, guests and others from the stage area at least 100 yards on all sides or to safe shelter for outdoor exhibits or attractions Keep people away from any large glass curtain walls or glass doors	Outdoor Indoor
Lightning is observed within 15 miles of the venue	Elevate lightning and storm monitoring and communicate with personnel, performers, athletes, and technicians of possible delay and consider immediate evacuation, depending on storm conditions/severity	Outdoor
Lightning is observed within 8 miles of the venue	Suspend event activities. An evacuation of the venue begins (or continues) for all individuals to seek shelter in enclosed building or fully enclosed vehicle	Outdoor
Thunderstorm or Tornado WARNING is issued	Move all personnel, performers, athletes, and technicians to designated safe shelter. Communicate with all guests	Both

Available Resources

- Resources
  - Storm Prediction Center
  - National Hurricane Center
  - National Weather Service Local Offices
  - Private Meteorologists
    - Focused information specific to the location of the venue
  - Television Meteorologists

Summary of Tornados in 2011

Tornados can and do strike in every one of our United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Don't ever say "It can't happen to me."